

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Gurunatha Martanda Nadar requested permission to put up the school building on *poramboke* land. The request was refused. He has renewed the request and the matter is under consideration.

Ferry service across the Piravam ferry.

153. **MR. K. P. ABRAHAM** (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): (1) Are the Government aware:

(a) that there is regular motor traffic on the roads (i) between Ernakulam and Peppatipara, which is on the western side of the Piravam ferry, and (ii) between Piravam on the eastern side of the ferry and Koottattukulam;

(b) that a large number of people including women and children have to cross the river daily at the Piravam ferry and that there is no regular ferry service at that place; and

(c) that during summer months people have to cross the river at the Piravam ferry wading through water more than waist-deep?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have introduced a ferry service across the Piravam river; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative,

(i) the months of the Malabar year for which the ferry-man is given any pay; and

(ii) his pay per mensem?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (a) (i) and (ii) Yes.

(b) Yes; and there is a regular ferry service for nine months of the year at the crossing.

(c) The Government have no information.

(2) (a) The member is referred to the answer to part (1) (b) above.

(b) (i) The ferry-man is paid for nine months from the 16th Edavam to the 16th Kumbham.

(ii) Rs. 6-14-0.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): In regard to (2) (b) (i), may I know why there is no ferry service for the remaining three months in the year?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It was considered that during summer the people could wade through easily.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): May I know the idea of the Government in regard to the depth of the water at that place during summer?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Government have no information.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to make an investigation whether during the remaining three months there will not be too much water for people to wade through?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Government will ask the Chief Engineer, if necessary.